

Amesbury Rural District Council.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1939



Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my 20th Annual Report on the Public Health and Sanitary Administration of your district.

I regret that owing to the war I cannot complete 20 annual reports in the manner I would wish. This report is brief and is according to instructions received from the Ministry of Health in their circular 2067 dated July 19th 1940.

I have the honour to remain,

Your obedient servant,

A. H. WILSON,

18 Victoria Road, Salisbury.

Medical Officer of Health.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population—Census 1931 : 16,883

Population—Estimated Mid. 1939—16,830 (for birth-rate), 16,500 (for death rate).

Area, 63,464 Acres

Rateable Value : £97,383

Sum represented by Penny Rate : £409 0 0

Number of Inhabited Houses as shown by Rate Books end of 1939 : 3,214.

Births, 1939.	Male.	Female.	Total.	
Live	180	162	342	(10 Illegitimate)
Still	6	8	14	(0 Illegitimate)

Birth Rate, 1939. England and Wales

Live	20.2	Live	15.0
Still	.84	Still	0.59

Birth Rate Average last 10 years 18.8

England and Wales , , 10 , , 15.1

Deaths : Males, 89. Females 70. Total, 159.

1939

Death Rate 12.3 Average last 10 years 9.4

England and Wales 12.1 , , 10 , , 12.0

Number of deaths of infants under one year of age : Males 7
Females 4. Total, 11.

1939

Infantile Mortality Rate (per 1,000 Live Births) 32.0

England and Wales 50.0

Infantile Mortality Average last 10 years 40.7

England and Wales , , 10 , , 59.1

The AREAL COMPARABILITY FACTOR 1.29.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Disease.	Total Cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total deaths.
Scarlet Fever ...	19 (2 Mil).	15	0
Diphtheria ...	5	5	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	0	0
Pneumonia ...	7	0	1
Erysipelas ...	2 (1 Mil).	1 (Mil).	0
Measles	5 (3 Mil).	3 (Mil).	0
Poliomyelitis ...	1	1	0
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	1	1	0

Scarlet Fever. Of the 19 cases notified 3 were military while the others were fairly evenly distributed over the year and the district and call for no comment. Two were in evacuated people.

Diphtheria. Of the 5 notified the first three had no connection with one another while the last two were in the same house.

Pneumonia. 7 cases were notified and of these 6 were by one Doctor, so I fear this number does not give a very accurate account of the prevalence of this disease in this district.

Erysipelas. Only two of these cases were notified and one of these was in a soldier.

Acute Polio-myelitis. One case, in a girl of 21, was notified.

Measles. 5 cases of this disease were notified after it became notifiable at the end of October and of these 3 were in soldiers.

Cerebro-spinal Fever. Only one case was notified and that was a military case in April.

Tuberculosis. Five deaths from this disease were recorded and 17 fresh cases notified during the year; actually there were 6 deaths but one of these was an outward transferable death.

The Notified cases were :—

Male Pulmonary	1	between	5-10	1	between	15-20
,,	3	,	20-25	2	,	55-65
Female Pulm.	1	,	15-20	1	,	20-25
,,	1	,	25-35	3	,	35-45
Male Non-Pulm.	3	,	5-10			
Female Non-Pulm	1	,	5-10			

Deaths were :—

Male Pulmonary	1	between	15-20	1	between	55-65
Female Pulm.	1	,	35-45	1	,	45-55
Female Non-Pulm	1	,	20-25			

WATER SUPPLY.

Amesbury Parish. This supply continues to be very satisfactory.

Bulford and Durrington. These Parishes are supplied by the joint scheme which was put into operation in November, 1934. The supply has proved very satisfactory.

Shrewton Parish. The work in connection with the above supply was completed by Messrs. Wort & Way in June, 1939. At the end of the year 62 connections had been made to the mains.

Frequent samples of the above show the waters to be of good character.

Cholderton Parish. This parish is supplied by the Cholderton Water Co., which also supplies a part of the Andover Rural District.

Tilshead Parish. The supply from the War Department supply at Tilshead is satisfactory as a domestic supply ; there is, however, no provision for fire fighting as the supply consists of an inch main only.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Amesbury. This parish is the only one in the district which has the advantage of a main scheme of sewerage and sewage disposal. Samples of the effluent which is discharged into the river are taken by the County Council and these have proved very satisfactory.

The disposal works are now dealing with sewage from a population in excess of that for which they were designed. Consequently careful attention has to be given to the works in order to obtain satisfactory results.

Durrington and Bulford. In my last report I referred to the delay occasioned by the intervention of the War Dept. in carrying out the main drainage of the above parishes. The outbreak of war has further postponed the work. The War Department has, however, commenced construction on the site selected by the Council, of disposal works for Bulford Barracks.

It is hoped that eventually the Parishes of Bulford and Durrington will be sewered into these works.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The new incinerator for which a loan of £1,400 has been granted has been put in hand by the New Destructor Co. Ltd., of Pershore, and good progress has been made. In the meantime the collection of refuse is satisfactory and the completion of the incinerator will provide an excellent means of disposal.

Collection of night soil is still carried out once weekly in the parishes of Bulford and Durrington.

MILK SUPPLY.

The number of wholesale producers of milk in the district registered at the end of the year was 69 ; of this number 20 persons hold licences to produce accredited milk and 3 persons hold licences to produce Tuberculin Tested Milk.

Regular inspections have been made of all cowsheds and dairies in the district and many defects have been remedied as a result of informal action by the Sanitary Inspector.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

	No. of Inspections. 1	No. of Defects. 2	Informal Notices. 3	Statutory Notices. 4	Remedied by 3. 5	Remedied by 4. 6	Remedied after verbal instructions only. 7
Nuisances ...	67	22	15	1	15	—	4
Slaughter-houses ...	171	1	1	—	1	—	—
Knackers' Yards ...	6	1	1	—	—	—	1
Places where food is prepared ...	28	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cowsheds ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dairies and Milkstores	293	10	10	—	7	—	1
Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bakehouses	33	6	3	—	4	—	1
Butcher's Shops ...	53	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	651	40	30	1	27	0	7

Milk and Dairies, etc.

Number of Wholesale Producers registered (1939) ...	... 69
„ Retail Purveyors registered (1939) ...	... 42
„ Certificates issued (Producers) during 1939 ...	... 4
„ Certificates issued (Retailers) during 1939 ...	... 3
Approximate number of Cows ...	... 2,500

Meat and Other Foods.

Number of Registered Slaughter-houses	... ... 4
Number of Licensed Slaughter-houses	... ... 4
Notices received of Regular Slaughter	... ... 8
Notices received of Casual Slaughter ...	... ... 3

HOUSING.

476 Inspections were made during the year and 8 were found to be unfit for habitation, in addition 32 were found not to be in all respects fit for habitation.

30 were rendered fit after informal action.

4 demolition orders were made.

Actually 99 different houses were inspected for this purpose.

Overcrowding. Any figures for overcrowding would be misleading because, although there was some overcrowding in the early part of the year owing to influx of extra labour employed on the

camps, this was greatly increased directly war broke out on account of the evacuation of children and others which has completely altered the situation. "Lodgers" and evacuees are prevalent all over the district.

86 plans were submitted during the year, including plans for 53 new houses, 22 alterations and additions to houses, 8 garages and 7 other buildings. Plan of layout for 25 houses was also submitted.

Plans for two houses and one garage and filling station were disapproved. Plans were submitted for four new Council houses at Cholderton during the year 1939. Council Houses were completed in the following parishes :—

Winterbourne Gunner—8 houses.

Amesbury (Holder's Road)—2 houses.

TOTAL CAUSES OF DEATH.

	Causes of Death.		M.	F.		Causes of Death.		M.	F.
	All Causes	...	89	70		30	Other puerperal	...	
1	Typhoid fever, etc.	...				31	Congenital causes, etc.	6	3
2	Measles	...				32	Senility	5	4
3	Scarlet fever	...				33	Suicide	3	
4	Whooping cough	...		1		34	Other violence	5	2
5	Diphtheria	...				35	Other defined causes	1	
6	Influenza	...	1			36	Ill-defined causes	...	
7	Encephalitis lethargica	...				Special Causes (included in No. 35)			
8	Cerebro-spinal fever	...				Small-pox	...	...
9	Respiratory tuberculosis	2	2			Poliomyelitis	...	...
10	Other tuberculous	1				Polioencephalitis	...	...
11	Syphilis	...	1			Deaths of Infants under 1 year—			
12	General paralysis of the insane, etc.	...				Total	7	4	
13	Cancer	10	11			Legitimate	7	4	
14	Diabetes	1	3			Illegitimate	...	...
15	Cerebral haemorrhage	12	10			Live Births			
16	Heart disease	19	20			For Birth-rate			
17	Aneurysm	...				Total	180	162	
18	Other circulatory	2	3			Legitimate	173	159	
19	Bronchitis	2				Illegitimate	7	3	
20	Pneumonia	3	1			For Inf. Mort.-rate			
21	Other respiratory	1				Total	181	162	
22	Peptic Ulcer	2				Legitimate	174	159	
23	Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years)	1				Illegitimate	7	3	
24	Appendicitis	1	1			Stillbirths			
25	Cirrhosis of liver	...				Total	6	8	
26	Other diseases of liver,					Legitimate	6	8	
27	Other digestive	...	2			Illegitimate	...	...
28	Nephritis	...	4	1		Population			
29	Puerperal sepsis	...				For Birth-rate	16,830		
						For Death-rate	16,500		

